

Rep. Pastor urges seniors to apply for economic stimulus payment

Since early May, Americans began receiving Recovery Rebates as a result of the Economic Stimulus package. The package became law in February and provides rebate checks of up to \$600 per individual and \$1,200 per married couple, plus an additional \$300 per child.

"These recovery rebates will help families facing high costs of gas, health care and groceries, and jumpstart our slow economy," said Rep. Ed Pastor.

Rep. Pastor reminds senior constituents that even if you are receiving Social Security benefits and are not otherwise required to file a tax return, you may still be eligible for an economic stimulus payment from the federal government.



Recovery rebate info for Social Security recipients

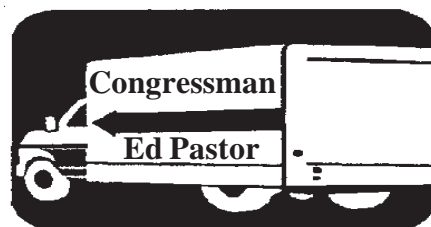
Even if you are not otherwise required to file a tax return, you may still be entitled to an economic stimulus payment from the federal government.

To get the stimulus payment, file a 2007 IRS Form 1040 or Form 1040A by Oct. 15, 2008, and report at least \$3,000 in qualifying income on the form. You can include the amount of your Social Security Administration benefits to qualify for the stimulus payment. This will not affect the amount of SSA benefits you receive.

More information: 1-800-829-1040

Congressional mobile office locations for 2008

To assist constituents with any issues they may have with federal agencies, a representative from Congressman Pastor's office will be at these locations in 2008. No appointments are necessary. More information is available by phoning Rep. Pastor's office at 602-256-0551.



South Mountain Community Center:

June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5 and Dec. 3; Hours 10 a.m. to Noon
212 E. Alta Vista, Phoenix

Golden Gate Community Center:

June 10, Aug. 12, Oct. 14, and Dec. 9; Hours 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
1625 N. 39th Ave., Phoenix

Glendale Community Center :

June 18, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17.; Hours 10 a.m. to Noon
5401 W. Ocotillo, Glendale

Guadalupe Senior Center:

June 24, July 22, Aug. 26, Sept. 23, Oct. 28, Nov. 25 and Dec. 23; Hours 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
9401 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe

Desert West Community Center: Sept. 9; Hours: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
6501 W. Virginia, Phoenix

Rep. Pastor: Help available for homeowners facing foreclosure



Rep. Ed Pastor discusses Congress' efforts to address the foreclosure crisis with a Phoenix constituent.

Congressman Ed Pastor recently asked homeowners to remember "you are not alone" in facing a possible foreclosure due to financial problems or bad loan terms.

Pastor was a special guest at a Foreclosure Prevention Workshop held May 10 in Phoenix by the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco.

"When foreclosure happens, everyone in the community loses," Pastor said.

He encouraged homeowners to remember that help is available from credit and housing counselors, loan servicers and nonprofit organizations that are working together to help distressed homeowners. He also discussed legislative efforts in Congress to help those facing foreclosure.

Homeowner's Hope Hotline 888-995-4673 (HOPE)

This free hotline is available to any homeowner having trouble paying their mortgage.

How to contact Congressman Ed Pastor

Congressman Ed Pastor's office is in your city to serve your needs. Please keep this information handy to contact his offices for assistance.

<http://www.pastor.house.gov>

Washington Office

2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0302
Phone: (202) 225-4065

Phoenix District Office

411 N. Central Ave., Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Phone: (602) 256-0551

Please send postal delivery mail to Phoenix District Office only.

Due to the threat of anthrax-contaminated mail delivered to the Capitol complex, all incoming letters to my Washington Office must be irradiated before delivery, resulting in a delay of at least three weeks. Feel free to send mail instead to my Phoenix District Office. Thanks.

✂ Clip and save ✂

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Presorted Standard

Congressman Ed Pastor
411 N. Central Ave., Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Official Business





CONGRESSMAN

Ed Pastor

WASHINGTON REPORT

District update

INSIDE

- ▶ New Maryvale Family YMCA
- ▶ Sunnyslope student wins art contest

Fourth Congressional District - Arizona

May/June 2008

Working for economic recovery, district needs

Dear Fellow Arizonans,

We're almost halfway into the year and most of you should already have received your Recovery Rebate from the first economic stimulus package passed by the Congress and signed by the President.

The rebate was the result of the New Direction Congress, working in a bipartisan way, to provide relief to families in need. However, we know that many families continue to struggle to make ends meet as they pay higher prices for gas and basic necessities.

As we continue to work in a bipartisan way, the Democratic-led Congress is exploring further steps to get our economy back on track, create

jobs and speed assistance to help families struggling to make ends meet. The House also is proposing legislation that would stabilize our fragile real estate market.

I am working in Congress to help move America in the right direction, and again I hope you will take time to read this update about my activities in the district.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

Center will connect community to nature at Rio Salado



U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor recently participated in the groundbreaking for the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center near downtown Phoenix that will connect people with nature using science, education and advocacy to protect Arizona's birds, other wildlife and their habitats.

The center is the product of a partnership between Audubon, the city of Phoenix and the Rio Salado, a federally-funded habitat restoration project on the Salt River.

Rep. Ed Pastor and Carol Schilling, a Nina Mason Pulliam Trustee, discuss the benefits the Rio Salado and the Audubon Center will bring to the district.

Federal funding helps YMCA open new Maryvale facility for families

Congressman Ed Pastor recently helped mark the opening of the new Maryvale Family YMCA in west Phoenix by recognizing the Medina family of Phoenix, the first family registered as members of the facility.

Pastor, who was instrumental in securing federal funding that went towards construction of the facility, said it would provide recreational opportunities to keep young people engaged, particularly after school.

Programs include a fitness center, youth sports, a teen technology center, child care, a swimming pool, full-size gym, community meeting space and a credit union. The \$9.1 million center will contribute towards revitalization plans in the Maryvale area, Pastor said.

“The community came together to build this facility and it will help improve the quality of life for many residents in this neighborhood,” he said.



Congressman Ed Pastor recognizes the Medina family of Phoenix as the first members of the new Maryvale Family YMCA during the facilities recent opening.

ASU event focuses dialogue on American civil rights



Congressman Pastor's District Director Elisa de la Vara, second from left, joined others at a forum at ASU's downtown Phoenix campus as part of an ongoing lecture series that brings nationally recognized policymakers and leaders to the Valley to discuss contemporary civil rights in an open dialogue. The event featured National Public Radio's Juan Williams, far left, ASU's Raul Yzaguirre, Ruth Osuna, chief of staff to Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon, and ASU professor Dr. Matthew Whitaker.

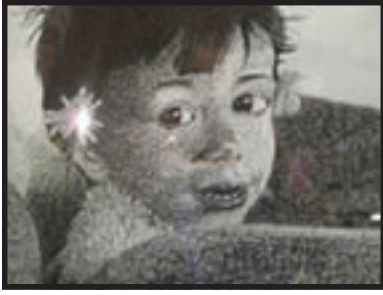


Rep. Pastor recognized by group fighting juvenile diabetes

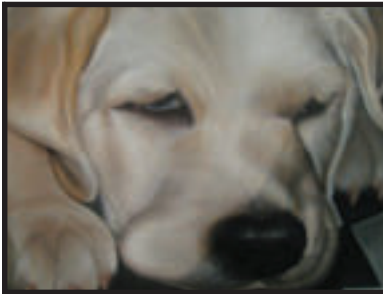
U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor recently met with a representative of the “Promise to Remember Me” campaign with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation to discuss his support of targeted legislation in Congress.

In the photo on the left, Pastor met with Gabrielle Thorp, mother of an 18-year-old type 1 diabetic son to thank him for his support in Congress.

Pastor said it is important to continue appropriating funds to the National Institutes of Health for type 1 diabetes research, which is set to expire this year.



First Place
"Our Angel" by
Troy Thomas
Sophomore
Sunnyslope High School



Second Place
"My Buddy" by
Justin Ayala
Junior
Apollo High School



Third Place
"Always By My Side" by
Juan Marzeleno
Sophomore
Trevor G. Browne High School

Sunnyslope HS sophomore wins Congressman Pastor's art contest

Sophomore Troy Thomas, a student at Sunnyslope High School, was recently selected as winner of the Fourth Congressional District's Art Competition held each year by U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor. Troy won the competition with his drawing entitled "Our Angel" in ink and pen. His art teacher is Candice Stephens.

Second place went to Justin Ayala, a junior at Apollo High School. His oil painting is entitled "My Buddy." Third place was awarded to Juan Marzeleno, a sophomore at Trevor G. Browne High School. His graphite drawing was entitled "Always By My Side."

Ten pieces by nine students, including another piece by Troy Thomas, received Honorable Mention. Those students included: Erika Hernandez, Mercedes Kincade, Steven Born, DesJean Bauer for two pieces, Chavonique Poole, Pedro Uriarte, Alejandro Corona and Marc Arvallo.

There were 97 entries from 11 schools in the competition this year. As the first place winner, Troy's art work will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for a year and he will be recognized at the June 25 "An Artistic Discovery" event on Capitol Hill.

"It is evident that the artistic talent of our youth is tremendous," Pastor said. "I am extremely proud Troy's piece will be representing Arizona in the Capitol. I'm especially thankful to the teachers and parents who encouraged these young people to pursue their talents."



Rep. Ed Pastor recognizes Troy Thomas for placing first in the annual Congressional Art Competition for the Fourth Congressional District.



Somali Day helps immigrants learn about government

Congressman Pastor's Office recently participated in Somali Day, a Phoenix event to help new Somali immigrants learn about government and their community.

In the photo on the left, Pastor's District Director Elisa de la Vara, second from left, discusses services provided by congressional offices with Hamza Haadow, Dahir Abdikadir, State Sen. Debbie McCune Davis and Hakim Osman, president of the Somali Association of Arizona.

Rep. Pastor encourages parent advocacy for children as they graduate from ‘American Dream’

Congressman Ed Pastor recently recognized more than 100 parents who graduated from Arizona State University’s “American Dream Academy,” which teaches families how to keep kids on track for college.

Pastor spoke to the parents about the importance of education, and how it helped him pursue his path to Congress. He spoke about his role in Congress and how families should empower themselves with education and knowledge of government to help their children secure solid academic success.

The academy is the signature program of ASU’s Center for Community Development and Civil Rights. It collaborates with schools and districts in low-income, disadvantaged residential areas to train parents to become effective partners and advocates for their children’s education. The goal is to increase elementary, middle- and high-school retention and graduate rates among high-risk populations.



Photo courtesy of Zara Bish

Rep. Ed Pastor, far right, discussed the importance of the understanding of education on his path to Congress with participants in the “American Dream Academy.” He met with Raul Yzaguirre, founder of the ASU Center for Community Development and Civil Rights, which runs the program, and a parent graduate from the program with her son.

Emergency funds available for military families

While many families of service members make huge sacrifices, they should not have to face extraordinary financial burdens, particularly if a service member is injured or killed, Rep. Pastor said. Pastor said military families should be provided resources, particularly in time of emergencies.

One new resource available to help ease unforeseen financial circumstances for families of service members killed or injured while in a combat zone is the Arizona Military Family Relief Fund, which provides stipends of up to \$10,000 for military spouses or parents with only a few days needed for processing.

Individuals seeking assistance can download an application from the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services website, www.azdvs.gov. Completed applications should be sent to:

Military Family Relief Fund - Applications
3839 N. 3rd St., Suite 108
Phoenix, AZ 85012



Rep. Pastor recognizes volunteerism at Red Cross event

Congressman Ed Pastor recently recognized the spirit of America’s volunteers, particularly those who have come to the country’s aid during national disasters. Pastor discussed volunteerism at the Volunteer Recognition event for the Grand Canyon Chapter of the American Red Cross. He thanked volunteers for their thousands of hours of service and discussed the importance of their work in the community.

Rep. Ed Pastor and Ken Krueger, CEO of the Grand Canyon Chapter of the American Red Cross, discuss the importance of volunteerism in America.